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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12-15, 17, 21 and 25 have been amended, and new claims 26-34 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 1-10 and 12-34 are presently pending in the application.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his careful review of the present application, his thorough search and analysis of the prior art, and his indication that claims 6, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 20-25 contain allowable subject matter. In particular, the Examiner allowed claims 23 and 24; indicated that claims 6, 9, 11, 12, 20 and 22 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and further indicated that claims 13, 21 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten to satisfactorily overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In connection with a further review of the file and an update search, however, the Examiner formulated new grounds of rejection. Consequently, claims 2, 4, 13, 15, 17, 21 and 25 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,479,172); claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Savignac et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,166,546) and as allegedly being anticipated by Giovinazzi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,227); claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over, Smith et al.; and claims 1-5, 7-8, and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slamowitz et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0174002) in view of Smith et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Regarding these rejections to the claims, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Terry L. Englund for the telephonic examiner interview conducted with Applicants' representative, Kenton R. Mullins, on October 18, 2005, at which time it was indicated by Examiner Englund

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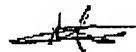
that independent claims 1 and 10 (claim 14 is no longer an independent form) as presently amended would appear to overcome the outstanding prior-art rejections. Examiner Englund stressed that he would need to review the case in greater detail before making a final decision, and that his review could change his current opinion. Applicants request that the outstanding rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Regarding new claims 26-34, Applicants submit that new independent claim 26 from which claims 27-34 depend, is an earlier version of claim 1 (as presented before this Amendment) with two additional limitations being added to the second paragraph so that it reads as follows: "a voltage divider connected to an input and not controlled by an output of the Schmitt-trigger circuit and configured to track a supply signal, the voltage divider comprising resistors connected directly to the Schmitt trigger circuit." (Emphasis added.) Applicants submit that each of these two new phrases, even when considered alone, distinguishes over the prior art of record. Thus, the pair of new limitations when combined with the limitations of the earlier version of claim 1 also distinguishes over the prior art of record.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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